VOLUME #13
July 3, 1979

The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862, 603-964-8668.

MONTHLY REPORT: Summer is coming. All the certain signs are here; Albany TVIC has sung its annual chorus of 'See You In September', new inquiries have slowed to a trickle, our membership growth has slowed to six new members, and the surest sign of all, Kathy has said her first "It's too hot to dress". When that happens, it's too hot. Yes, the entire TV-TS community is sinking into its annual summertime lethargy. It's the crossdressing world's version of the energy shortage, called the enthusiasm shortage.

However, despite the time of the year, we have made some progress. We do have six new members, the search for adequate Boston facilities is underway, and most encouraging of all, Allison has measured (using that indispensible carpenter's tool - my seamstress tape measure) every square inch of our apartment no less than two dozen times in preperation of a future masterpiece of construction. (With such grand planning I would expect no less than three peep-show booths and a massage table. How disappointing if it were just for shelves.)

On June 12 we had a business meeting. Kathy, Marilyn, Allison, Jennifer, Dawna and I were here, Frances and Diane by proxy (Ma Bell). The object was to figure out what we wanted to do for the summer. That was easy to figure out - nothing! "Want a pool party?" "Yawn!" "How about a nice dinner, or night on the town, or something?" "Nyaah!" "Well, does anybody want to do anything?" "I'll have a cup of coffee - me too - me too - not me thanks!" "Is that all you want to do is drink?" "For now, yep!"

So gals and guys, it looks like for the summer anyway our activities are going to be concentrated on making our facilities more functional and comffortable, obtain our Boston facilities, and continue reaching out to new people.

Until next month, stay healthy, stay happy, and God bless.

LOVE, Merissa Sherrill Lynn

P.S. Be sure to read Glenda's marvelous article about the International Alliance, reprinted in the Forum.

COMING EVENTS:

TIFFANY CLUB

BUSINESS MEETING: 8:30 pm Tuesday, September 11, 1979. Location and agenda to be announced.

OPEN MEETINGS: Informal get-togethers at the North Hampton residence each Tuesday evening. Call: 603-964-8668

MAYFLOWER SOCIETY:

OPEN MEETINGS: Informal get-togethers each Wednesday evening. 617-254-7389

NEW MEMBERSHIPS: Our membership growth for the month was off the pace, but we have some beautiful people, and are particularly proud to introduce our first female crossdresser. It's about time, for we gals have been alone long enough. Let us welcome Llana C. (Iowa), Ricky W. (Mass.), Charlotte V. (R.I.), Dawn N. (Mass.), Mark B. (NH), and Serena D. (NH).

GENERAL:

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS In order to build an organization that will provide the maximum amount of service to the crossdressing and transsexual community, it is our policy to work cooperatively with other regional organizations that have attitudes and membership policies similar to our own. Two such organizations are 'Golden Gate Gals/Guys (a SanFrancisco Bay area club for both male and female crossdressers), and The Crossroad Chapter (an independant chapter of The International Alliance) located in Flint, Michigan. If you plan on moving to or

visiting these areas, or would just like to establish contacts and friendships, please write:

Georgia L. Saunders
c/o GGG/G
Suite 2507
681 Ellis St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94109

or

Grace Bacon
c/o The Crossroad Chapter
P.O. Box 3013
Flint, Mich.
48502

TRANSSEXUAL OPEN HOUSE: In an effort to form a support group for avowed transsexual persons, a transsexual open house was held in Cambridge Mass. on June 28. Approximately 12 persons attended. This is a much needed program here in the Boston area, and like anything else, in order to be effective the project needs the support of the people it is intended to serve. So, if you are an avowed transsexual person and would be interested in this project, write: Erica, c/o Outreach Institute, P.O. Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, Mass. 02215

BULLETIN BOARD

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Outreach Institute for Human Achievement would like to announce that due to circumstances beyond its control, the Charles Street mailboxes have been discontinued, and mail is not being forwarded. If you have been unable to contact Outreach, please understand and forgive this situation, and make note of the new Outreach address

Outreach Institute
P.O. Box 368
Kenmore Station
Boston, Mass. 02215

FANTASIA FAIR '79'

A learning and growing experience en femme, held each October in Provincetown, Mass., is now accepting weekend reservations.

For further information write: Outreach Institute, P.O. Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston Mass. 02215, or call: 617-277-3454

ROOMMATE WANTED

I am an elderly TV, looking for a TV to live with me. I have what I believe is a place that would work out OK. If you know of a nice person, please tell thmm about me. I would make it worth while to the right person. Write: C. Vail, 66 Providence St., W. Warwick R.I. 02893

ARTIST

Art and cartoon ideas wanted. Gayle E. is our resident artist. If you have any ideas for pictures or cartoons, let her know. (If you just want to say 'Hi' that's OK too.) Remember, the Tapestry is for the creativity of our own sisters and brothers, and not for reprints of somebody else's work. Gayle is good, so be original. Send your ideas to: G. Evans, CY Box 468, Comm. Ave. Boston, Mass. 02215

ITEMS FOR SALE
CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

The Tiffany Club has a small selection of dresses, caftans, shoes, etc. for sale at our N. Hampton residence. Most items sizes 18-20, shoes 9½-11.

More contributions of clothing and accessories are much needed (contribute or on consignment). Call: 603-964-8668

FORUM

The Forum is for exploring what we think, what we feel, what we say and do, for exploring our difficulties, our guilts and fears, and how we can overcome them. The Forum is not for fiction or fantasy or technical articles. Rather, it is for talk, for thought, for understanding ourselves and one another, and for sharing ourselves with others.

(Ed. note: I have received many beautiful, thoughtfub and enlightening letters that I would dearly love to share with others through The Forum. I can't do so without your permission. So please, if you don't mind sharing your thought and feelings with others, let me reprint your work. At least, give me permission to use my descretion. I can assure you absolute descretion will be used, and your security will be protected. Thank you - MSL)

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
by
Glenda Rene Jones

Glenda Rene Jones
Executive Director
International Alliance

Having quite a few beautiful friends who I trust to let them know me as I really am, I'm frequently asked, "Just what is the International Alliance?". My typical answer is, "We are people." That is a pretty good answer since that is exactly what we are. People from all walks of life. From rich to poor, all levels of education, virtually every trade and profession. From physician, to housewife, to welder to teacher, to unemployed. The Alliance answers about 75 letters a week. (The membership is growing at 10-15 per week.) Behind each of those letters is a human being. People sharing their joys and sorrows. Their hopes and dreams.

Many are from people who are just coming out of the closet. People who thought they were the only one. Its quite a revelation to find out there are thousands of others. (The major share of business for mail order houses which carry large size lady clothes is from us.) Much of what shrinks have termed "gender dysphoria" is nothing more than the combination of loneliness and guilt. Loneliness is easy to deal with. That is why we publish a membership directory and support local groups. Guilt is harder. Right after my wife and I met she presented me with a sign which I have had over my desk ever since. It says "Fuck Guilt". Much of the emphasis of the Alliance is simply to communicate the one fact that its perfectly OK for a person to be their beautiful self.

Another large area of our communication is from people who write about problems with their wives. Wives of crossdressers certainly do have some concerns beyond those of their sisters who married a straight Joe Blow. Fear that the neighbors will find out or that it will get around the school. There is no sense denying that few women can totally accept their husband putting on a skirt with the same detatchment that they have when putting on front-zippered pants. Some are so naive as to believe they will end up 'curing' the guy. There is certainly no such thing as a pat answer. Some responsibility must rest upon the shoulders of the crossdresser himself. A wife has reason to be upset when she is in grubbies doing the laundry while he is in pretties doing his nails. And it is especially unfortunate for a gal to find out after they get married. Still, in the final analysis, a woman has the choice of either accepting her husband for what he is or not accepting him. The guy has a similar choice.

Many people inquire about passing in public. It is, of course, an art. The other night I was out to dinner with a male woman, out for the second time in her life, who passed perfectly. The next week I had lunch with a woman planning surgery who you would read ten blocks off on a rainy night. We are running a series in the Alliance Journal on this subject, however, it is greatly facilitated with a teacher. When we are coaching someone we go through the standard things about beard, hair style and details like the fact that women usually don't have much hair on the nap of their necks. Mostly it is up to the individual. It takes work and practice to develop the manner, voice, and appearance of a woman. Most anyone can become very accomplished at the art if they want to badly enough.

There probably isn't a TV alive who hasn't at least thought once or twice about going transsexual. Here again the waters can be muddied to no length with big words and scholarly opinions. A transsexual is nothing more or less than a woman in a genetic male XY body or a man in a genetic female XX body. All of the elements of the TS procedure are merely ways to allow that woman or man to be better able to express herslef in this society. As an interesting sidelight, there is a syndrome called "testicular feminization" where a male fetus does not make the switchover necessary to develop as a male child. The result is nature's own woman residing in an XY body. The trick is that in this society there are

trade offs and advantages and disadvantages to being a man or a woman. And, of course, the TS procedure itself is quite expensive. The mission of the Alliance is to provide a framework in which people can come to totally accept themselves for what they are. When that point of understanding comes, one can intelligently decide for themself the role they wish to play in life and the extent to which they wish to modify their equipment to play their role.

So what is the Alliance? It is people. Men and women, who have a certain love for one another. People who are supportive; people who care. It is the most fantastic bunch of people I have ever met in my life.

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(This poem is part of a much larger poem I wrote some time ago. I was asked to reprint it in its entirety, but the whole poem is aimed at a philosophy of life with parts that have little to do with crossdressing. Besides, it's way too large for The Forum, so I will reprint bits and pieces, and concentrate on those sections that deal with crossdressing and to identity. This section, entitled 'A Tree', is a statement of my masculinity, my femininity, of me as a total human being. So for all you androgeny enthusiasts - and those of you who don't really care- enjoy!)

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

A TREE

by
Merissa Sherrill Lynn

I see myself in many things,
  Have since just a child.
Try to picture if you will
  A maple in the wild.
A tree that's tall and handsome,
  Standing proud against the wind,
With the sun and sky reflecting
  Off the leaves and through the limbs.
In my own perception
  I can see and feel that tree,
Then take that simple maple,
  And give it human qualities,
Then define and redefine
  What I see and feel.
Upon these fine embroiderments
  I've transcended what is real.
From the energy of my mind
  I've taken this humble tree,
Created a grand reflection
  Of nature and of me.
As a whole the maple tree
  Is a harmonious work of art,
But to understand the tree, and me,
  You must understand its parts.
The roots and trunk are strong,
  Gray and gnarled and rough.
These solid parts are stable,
  They're durable and they're tough.
They stave off nature's folly,
  And keep the tree alive.
Because of their stability
  The maple will survive.
The roots and trunk are masculine,
  Reflect a manly pride,
But if these parts were left alone
  The tree would quickly die.
The tree is more than roots 'n trunk,
  It is also leaves and limbs.
Each part serves its purpose,
  As does the sap within.
That living fluid flows
  From earth to extremities,
And like the parts just mentioned
  Gives survival to the tree.
Though this fluid has no gender,
  No personality,
It is the living link between
  The trunk and limbs and leaves.
The limbs are long and graceful,
  Swaying musically in the wind.
Like the arms of a ballerina
  They are poetic when they bend.
They protect the birds and squirrels
  Like a grand maternal dame
So nature's gentler creatures
  May in her loving arms remain.
Limbs are flowing and they're lovely,
  Have personality,
Give grace and give beauty,
  And feminine dignity.
Leaves also serve their purpose,
  They're the first to touch the sun.
They are delicate and they're moody,
  They're flighty and full of fun.
They're the tree's cloak and plumage,
  The tree's ornaments,
Splendid decorations,
  The tree's embroiderment.
The leaves are very special,
  The tree's frivolity,
A subtle demonstration of
  Nature's feminine vanity.
The tree is not a he or she,
  The tree is just a tree,
But in that single living tree
  Are many personalities.

poem cont.

There's the patriarch, the mother,
The poet and the child.
There's the flighty little lady,
The savage, and the mild.
Each quality is what it is,
Neither bad nor good.
Each one's a reflection of
It's character and moods.
There is rugged independant pride,
Love and poetry,
Defiance and submission,
And wild frivolity.

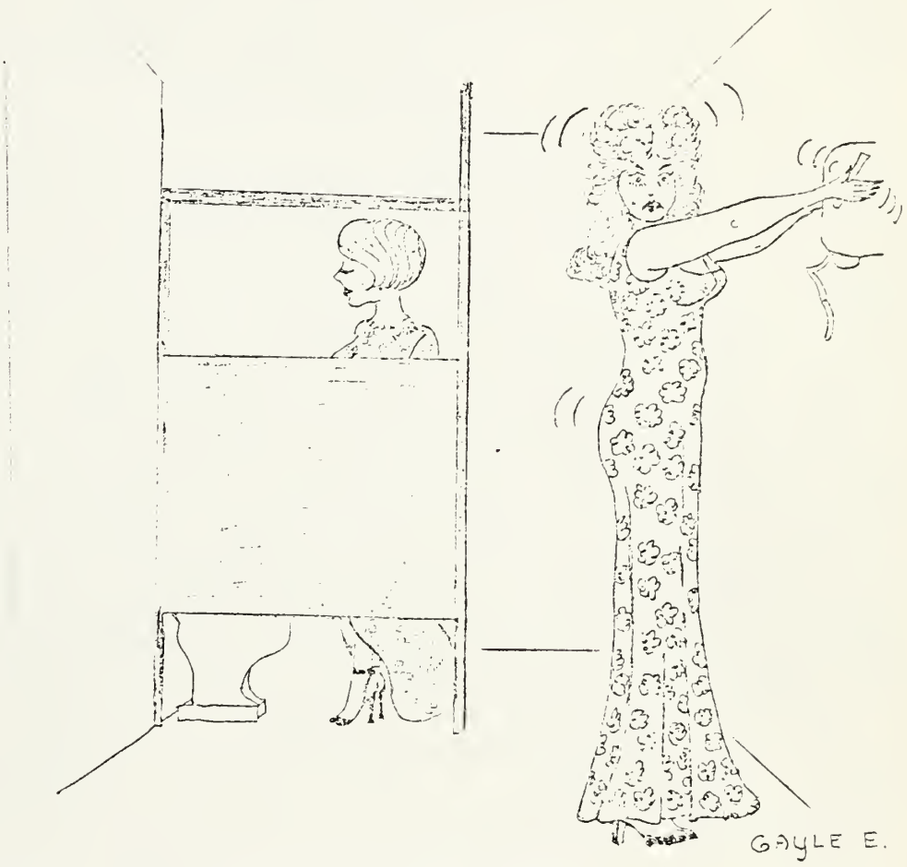
There's dependance and there's sadness,
Happiness and there's fears.
There's beauty and there's ugliness,
Humility and there's tears.
It's both plain and handsome,
so many qualities,
Yet its only just a single tree
With universal harmony.
It's alone yet it's intimate,
Toughed by sun and earth,
Apart yet in unity with
God the universe.

* *

THE FORUM
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(If one of these topics strikes your fancy, RESPOND!!!)

1.) Crossdressing for reasons of identity (particularly in transsexualism, or male womanhood, or female manhood).
2.) The gay experience as it relates to crossdressing.
3.) Crossdressing as a coping device to escape the demands of being masculine or feminine,
4.) The politics of dress.
5.) The transsexual experience.
6.) What do terms like 'womanhood', 'manhood', 'feminism', 'androgeny', 'superior' or 'inferior' mean?
7.) What is the sensation of guilt? Fear? Compulsion?
8.) What is the effect of crossdressing on wives, and on female and male straight friends?
9.) How and why can crossdressing be used as a means of revenge or self-punishment? Discipline? Training?
10.) There seem to be very few female TVs. Why? If the sensation of feeling 'feminine' is a turn-on for males, why isn't the sensation of feeling 'masculine' just as much a turn-on for females? What would be the sensual and sexual pay-offs or rewards for females feeling masculine? Dominant?
11.) What is dominance and submission? What are the rewards? How does it relate to role reversal or gender expression? Why?



'If you must use the Ladies Room, be descrete. Sit Down!'

Have any pet topics you would like to talk about (analyze)? Send them in and let's talk.